

Nov 1984

WASATCH COUNTY HOSPITAL
CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE
RESPONSE TO PODIATRISTS' STAFF APPLICATIONS

The credentials committee has reviewed the staff applications of two podiatrists, Scott Soulier and Jeffrey Page. A personal interview was also conducted. Both men are intelligent, communicative, pleasant, and apparently good podiatrists. However, because of more general concerns about the interaction between the medical profession and podiatry (and traditional conflict), it is our recommendation that privileges not be granted to the podiatrists at this time. Our reasoning is as follows:

1. There are basic differences between the training of M.D.s and Podiatrists. The first four years of medical training involve the care of a person as a whole. Subsequent training reinforces this and adds various special skills. We are unclear as to the exact content of the initial four years of podiatry training and the subsequent zero to three years of residency training. We specifically have concerns about their ability to objectively use their surgical skills in the care of their patients. Orthopedic surgeons have the same four years of basic medical training as we do, plus five to seven additional years of specialized training. We trust their more highly trained judgement to determine the best care for orthopedic problems. There is a long history of conflict between the medical profession and podiatry. Quality of care is the issue.
2. Because of the difference in educational background, we would not be comfortable monitoring the quality of patient care without the help of an orthopedic surgeon. We do not have an M.D. on our staff qualified to evaluate and proctor the quality of this type of orthopedic care given to patients in our hospital, especially when it may in the future involve more complex procedures.
3. If we grant very limited privileges now, it will be difficult to prevent the extension to more complex procedures in the future.
4. If we grant privileges to one paramedical profession, it will be difficult to deny privileges to other paramedical professions, eg. chiropractors. Good quality of patient care could become impossible to assure.

In conclusion, we feel that the dispute between the medical profession and podiatry over quality of care must first be settled in large hospitals where orthopedic supervision is available. After the precedent is set in our local large hospitals and guidelines acceptable to orthopedists and the medical profession as a whole are established, then we feel that it would be appropriate to consider granting privileges to podiatrists at Wasatch County Hospital.